

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

County: YUBA AND NEVADA

Applicant: THE SIERRA FUND

Project Title: YUBA RIVER WILDLIFE AREA- RICE'S CROSSING PRIORITY ACQUISITION
PHASE II

Reference Number: SNC 070223

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would fund a portion of the acquisition of 2,706 acres along the Middle Yuba River for habitat and recreation uses, spanning 9.5 miles of the Yuba River. Acquisition of the total parcel has been appraised at \$7.6m. The project area is a critical corridor that has been designated a high-priority acquisition in the California Department of Fish and Game's Yuba River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP), and is integral to creating a protected river corridor and a 20-mile long blue oak woodland corridor running north to south. The property would also link existing public lands from Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (CDFG) extending through the University of California Field Research Station and south to Beale Air Force Base and the Spenceville Wildlife Area. This property would also connect the 20-mile South Yuba River State Park to Bullards Bar Recreation Area. Other funding for this project would come from The Sierra Fund, The Trust for Public Land, State of California Resources Agency, and other state agencies. SNC funds would help to meet the goals of this project by funding the Rice's Crossing fee title acquisition.

Specific actions to complete this project include:

- Complete Title Reports
- Acquire Fee Title of 2,706 Acres

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete Title Reports	March 2008
Final Acquisition	December 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	December 31, 2008

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Portion of fee title acquisition of Rice's Crossing	\$1,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,000,000

Letters of Support:

- Yuba County Water Agency.

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to fund a portion of the fee-title acquisition of the Rice's Crossing parcel at the requested amount of \$1,000,000.

Item 2: Project Summary

Project Summary: The *Yuba River Wildlife Area: Priority Acquisition Project Phase II* includes 2,706 acres and spans more than 9.5 miles of Yuba River. It is a "High Priority" acquisition for a multi-year, multi-phased, collaborative conservation effort on the Yuba River, and it directly supports more than ten years of planning and dialogue surrounding river access by the multi-agency *Yuba River Conservancy*.

By any measure, the *Yuba River Wildlife Area Project* represents an opportunity to create an historic conservation and economic success in one of California's poorest communities. The property adds 20 miles of already developed trails; recreational linkages and corridors between major state and national parks and historic places; access to five historic riverfront townsites; access to archeologically important areas dating back 3,000 years; protection of a north-south and east-west wildlife corridor; expansion of a nationally renowned 16 mile mountain biking trail; protection of 9.5 miles of Class IV and V boating; support for rural tourism and economic development efforts in disadvantaged communities; and preservation of options to implement CALFED funded wild salmon and steelhead restoration efforts throughout an entire river corridor. Fishing, boating, kayaking, rafting, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, panning and camping will be available to the public on the entire river, which until now has been closed to public use.

In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the Project has been fully appraised and property owners have agreed to delay pending subdivision in favor of a conservation sale for appraisal value.

Yuba River Parkway. The Project Area is a critical corridor that has been designated a "High Priority" acquisition in California Department of Fish and Game's Yuba River CAPP and is integral to creating a protected river corridor and a 20 mile north to south blue oak woodland corridor. It is a critical element of an 81,000 acre protected oak woodland area linking the Daugherty Wildlife Area (2,600 acres), the Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,000 acres), the South Yuba River State Park, Beale Air Force Base (21,000 acres) and the University of California Foothill Research Station (6,200 acres) and an imperative river linkage in a 25 mile protected Yuba River corridor.

Funded Components: This grant will fund fee-title acquisition of the Rice's Crossing Project, matched by funds from The Sierra Fund, Trust for Public Land, the State of California Resources Agency and other state agencies.

Component	Estimated Cost	Sierra Nevada Conservancy Request
Fee-Title Acquisition	\$7,620,000	\$1,000,000

Public Access. There are three primary public access areas in the Project Area with existing paved entrances and parking: Rice's Crossing entrance at Bridgeport State Park; Colgate Powerhouse entrance; and Marysville Road entrance. Additionally, there are five secondary entrances to the Project on former logging roads and historic trails.